

418 Rec'd PCT/PTO 28 DEC 1999

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

JAMES T. SODER, et al.

International Application No.: PCT/US98/05433

International Filing Date: March 19, 1998

For: METAL FRAMING SYSTEM

Date of Entry into the
National Stage: September 16, 1999

National Stage Serial No.: 09/381,216

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

As a means of complying with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, two sheets of Form PTO-1449 are being submitted herewith, together with a copy of the listed documents.

Documents AC and AK, sheet 1, and documents AA and AB, sheet 2 were listed on an International Search Report dated as mailed on October 14, 1998, which was prepared for the International Patent Application listed above, i.e., Application No. PCT/US98/05433.

Document AB, sheet 1, discloses a Frame Construction For Buildings, Etc. The disclosed invention has among other objects to provide a frame construction of metal which can be cheaply manufactured and transported to the site where the structure is to be erected, and can then be easily, quickly and cheaply erected, and when erected forms a strong, durable and efficient structure (page 1, column 1, lines 18-25).

Document AD, sheet 1 discloses a Tube Construction. The invention relates to a tube construction, and more particularly to a construction for forming an interconnection between a plurality of tubes. It is an object of the invention to provide a construction for interconnecting a plurality of tubes which will provide a rigid interconnection between the tubes, and which will not detract from the appearance of the tubes. It is a further object of the invention to provide connectors for such tube construction which can be economically manufactured as sheet-metal

stampings, and which can be easily and quickly mounted in the tubes to form a rigid interconnection therebetween. According to one form of the invention, there is provided a first tube having a beveled end which is connected in end to end relationship with a second tube disposed at an angle thereto. The edges on the beveled end of the first tube and on the adjacent end of the second tube abut each other substantially continuously around the periphery of the tube ends. The pair of tubes are rigidly interconnected in their angular disposition by a pair of bifurcated brackets (column 1, lines 8-29).

Document AF, sheet 1, discloses a Corner Joint Assembly. A corner joint assembly is disclosed wherein tubular members are joined together at a miter joint with holes provided for electrical conductors which may extend in a horizontal and vertical direction through the tubular members (Abstract).

Document AI, sheet 1, discloses a Building Framing System And Method. A building framing system is disclosed consisting of a plurality of framing units each having at least two vertical load bearing column/studs with one or more joists extending horizontally therebetween and bolted in place. The joists are vertically spaced apart a distance sufficient for one floor of the building which may have as many as twelve floors. The frame units are erected in parallel, spaced apart a considerable distance and are connected together by means of spacer members and diagonal braces which are provided at each end and at each floor.

Document AJ, sheet 1, discloses an Apparatus And Methods For Improved Construction. Steel framing is provided for a building construction having a roof structure and perimeter supporting posts of roll formed steel sections. The connections between the perimeter posts and the roof structure are formed by separate connector assemblies, each having post mounting brackets enabling each connector to be bolted to the top of a respective perimeter post, roof frame mounting brackets enabling each connector to be bolted to a respective inclined roof frame member extending inwardly from the respective perimeter posts, and perimeter beam mounting brackets enabling adjacent perimeter posts to be interconnected by perimeter beams bolted to the perimeter beam mounting brackets (Abstract).

Document AL, sheet 1, discloses a building frame construction having flanged wall plates mounted between upright wall studs. The building frame has upper and lower wall plates and wall studs, with each wall plate having a cross-section of channel shape defined by two side flanges joined by a web. Each flange has inturned rib. The wall studs join the upper end wall

plates. Each wall stud also has a cross-section of channel shape defined by two side flanges by a web. The flanges of each stud have surfaces defining grooves (Abstract).

Document AA, sheet 2, discloses a Folding Telescopic Prefabricated Framing Units For Non-Load-Bearing Walls. A prefabricated framing unit for constructing non-load-bearing walls and partitions is disclosed. The framing units have vertical studs which both pivot in respect to the horizontal members, to allow collapsing of the unit, and telescope to allow the unit to be raised to fit the space between ceiling and floor without measuring and cutting to height (Abstract).

The remaining documents provide technical background for the general field of the invention.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims included in the above-captioned patent application defines subject matter that is patentable in view of the disclosed documents. An early and favorable notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
Garrison, Morris & Haight, PLLC

December 23, 1999
Date

By: Bradley D. Beck
Bradley D. Beck
Registration No. 35,440

5100 Poplar Avenue, Suite 2100
Memphis, Tennessee 38137
(901) 255-9311

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, on December 23, 1999 in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Bradley D. Beck
BRADLEY D. BECK